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*The Story of the American Merchant Marine.* By JOHN R. SPEARS. New York: Macmillan, 1910. 8vo, pp. vii+340. \$1.50 net.

The author brings to the task of writing this book a very considerable acquaintance with the literature of the subject. At the same time his primary purpose has been to tell a story and it is evident that his chief interest lies in the relating of this tale. The product is a volume rather different in character from any now available. As a result of the author's primary interest in his story he has escaped the common tendency toward one-sided statement and partisan arguments. As a result of his wide reading on the subject there is introduced an unusual amount of detail, some of which is purely entertaining while some throws side lights on various phases of the history of our merchant marine. It is this latter side of the book which will be of chief interest to the economist, for the book as a whole can hardly be accepted as a carefully worked-out economic study. There are too many gaps in the account: thus the tonnage acts of 1789 are hardly mentioned, causal relations are not examined with care, the influence of our foreign commerce is inadequately covered, and there is little attempt to connect events with the general economic development of the country. Where the writer enters upon the controverted subject of the revival of our merchant marine he is generally sound and he brings out several points usually unnoticed, but also neglects some rather important phases of the problem. This is stated to indicate what the book contains rather than as a criticism since the book evidently is intended not for the economist but for the general reader. For the latter it will prove a somewhat incomplete, but interesting, generally sound, and distinctly serviceable account of our merchant marine.

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*A Brief History of Forestry in Europe, the United States, and Other Countries.* By BERNHARD E. FERNOW. Toronto: University Press, 1910. 8vo, pp. x+438. \$2.50.

The author has now added to his book covering the history of forestry in the leading nations of the world a chapter of about fifty pages on its history in the United States and the insular possessions. Naturally the account is far from exhaustive, but it must be admitted that the history of forestry in this country is a subject which offers little opportunity for extended treatment. No attempt to give any history of the lumber industry is made, and the chapter devoted to the United States becomes, in fact, a record of the movement for the conservation of our forest resources. For those desiring a brief but comprehensive survey of this movement it is excellent.

The calling of attention to the need for conservation is, as is here brought out, by no means a recent move. From the time in 1682 when William Penn stipulated that for every five acres cleared one acre was to be reserved for forest growth by those who took title from him there have not been lacking men who foresaw the present need. In the last of the eighteenth and the first of the nineteenth centuries the scarcity of fuel-wood, due to the fact that so much had been cut along the river banks and wherever transportation facilities